

REMARKS

There are now pending in this application claims 31-50, of which claims 31, 39, and 47 are independent. Claims 1-30 have been cancelled without prejudice or waiver of their subject matter. Each of claims 31-50 are newly added.

In view of the newly-presented claims, and the following remarks, favorable reconsideration and allowance of the above application is respectfully sought.

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the Examiner's indication in the outstanding Official Action that claims 6-8 and 10 recite patentable subject matter and would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. As the Examiner will appreciate, claims 31, 39, and 47 correspond to claims 6, 7 and 10, respectively, rewritten into independent form. Applicants therefore respectfully submit that each of the independent claims is patentable over the applied art of record.

The remaining claims in the above application are dependent claims which depend either directly or indirectly from the independent claims 31, 39, and 47. Accordingly, each of those claims is in condition for allowance for reasons noted above with respect to the independent claims.

Applicants respectfully request entry of this Amendment After Final Rejection. While Applicants present all new claims, they are cancelling at least an equal number of pending claims. In addition, the independent claims are essentially the allowable dependant claims rewritten into independent form. As such, it is believed that examination of this application will not require substantial additional consideration on the part of the Patent and Trademark Office.

Accordingly, entry of the above amendments and early passage to issue of the above application is respectfully sought.

Applicants respectfully submit that all outstanding matters in this application have been addressed and that the application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the above application is respectfully sought.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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